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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Austria/East Germany	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	USIA Trade Transactions	DATE DISTR.	3 November 1953
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DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1

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1. During August and September 1953, the USIA-controlled Vienna Bridge Building and Iron Construction Company (Wiener Brückenbau und Eisenkonstruktionen A.G.), Hardtmuthgasse 131-135, Vienna X, purchased from the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works (VOEST), Linz, steel and iron valued at approximately 8,000,000 schillings. The purchase was financed through the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, Vienna.
2. Since 1 January 1953 the Central Commercial Bureau (Kaufmännisches Zentralbüro) of USIA has concluded compensation deals with the East German Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft, valued at approximately \$ 1,000,000. 1/ East Germany delivers such goods as sewing machines, bicycles, radio tubes and coal. All business is handled on a contractual basis through the Deutsche Notenbank, East Berlin. 2/

25X1A 1 [] Comment: The Deutsche Warenvertriebsgesellschaft is subordinate to the SED Central Committee and is engaged in unofficial or illegal trade transactions with western countries.

25X1X 2 [] Comment: Informal barter between the two countries has been carried on since 1947. Compensation transactions based on legal contracts were instituted two years ago, and the accounting is done on a dollar basis.

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